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IN MEMORIAM—FRANCIS JAMES CHILD.

THE death of Prof. Child, on September 11, adds another bereavement to the serious losses which have of late befallen the American Folk-Lore Society. The first President of the Society, Prof. Child, may also be regarded as a primal cause of its existence, since it would never have come into being save as a result of his coöperation, and in virtue of the interest awakened by his own studies. Having for twenty years been occupied with the examination of English ballad literature, he had made the library of Harvard University unrivalled in its collection of folk-lore material; as a consequence of the attention thus drawn to the subject, followed the organization of the Society, which had its birth in Cambridge. The engagements of Prof. Child did not allow him actively to coöperate in the preparation of the Journal, nor did the state of his health permit attendance on the annual meetings of the Society; but his kindly regard and judicious counsel were never lacking.

The memory of this teacher will always be dear to successive generations of Harvard students, who have profited by the catholicity of his taste and the soundness of his learning. Prof. Child was more than a specialist; with the armory of modern critical learning he united a broad humanity. In him was absent that outer crust of reserve which often incloses scholars, sometimes to their own painful consciousness. A childlike simplicity, a gentle humor, a sweet modesty, surrounded him with an atmosphere which no man could breathe without being rendered happier and better. His heart and purse were always open to demands; and the occasional discovery of imposture, causing only amusement, left him as free to the next comer. The indifference to the pursuits of the great world, which we not unfrequently see attendant on ultra-specialization, had no place in his nature; deeply interested in the welfare of his own university, he had a yet deeper interest in science, and was not tinctured by that objectionable partisanship and selfish limitation to local interests which confines the energy of the professor to his own narrow objects, and degrades an institution of learning to a factory for degrees.

The great work by which Prof. Child will be remembered, the "English and Scottish Popular Ballads," although not entirely printed, is, we believe, in a state of practical completion. This collection, bringing together all versions of old English ballad poetry, and illustrating these by kindred products of other languages, will never be obsolete, but must forever continue to represent this branch of popular literature.

W. W. N.